



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

March 23, 2012

MR. TOM NASH  
MUCKROCK NEWS  
DEPARTMENT MR 1078  
POST OFFICE BOX 55819  
BOSTON, MA 02205 5819

FOIPA Request No. 1181830- 000  
Subject: WHITE, KEVIN HAGAN

Dear Mr. Nash:

This is in response to your request for a fee waiver for the above referenced Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request. Requests for fee waivers are determined on a case by case basis. See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(iii).

In order to be granted a fee waiver or a reduction in fees, two requirements must be satisfied. First, it must be established that "disclosure of the [requested] information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government." Second, it must be established that "disclosure of the information . . . is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). The burden is on the requester to show the statutory requirements for a fee waiver have been met. Where one or both of these requirements has not been satisfied, a fee waiver is not warranted under the statute.

To determine whether the first requirement has been met, we consider the following four factors: (1) whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government;" (2) whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities; (3) whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to "public understanding;" and (4) whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities. See 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(k)(2).

If the first requirement has been met, we are then required to determine whether disclosure of the requested information is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. To make this determination, we consider the following two factors: (1) whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure and (2) whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." See 28 C.F.R. § 16.11(k)(3). If the requester's commercial interest in disclosure is greater than the public interest to be served, then a fee waiver is not warranted.

We have reviewed the information that you provided in support of your request for a fee waiver and have found that you do not satisfy either requirement. Quoting or paraphrasing the statute, without also providing factual detail or support specific to your request, is not sufficient under the law. Consequently, your request is denied.

You may appeal this denial by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C., 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request to facilitate its identification.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division